



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6808

January Session, 2001

***AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE TEACHER
AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR SHORTAGE AND MINORITY
RECRUITMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) The Department of Higher Education shall
2 collaborate with the Department of Education, the regional
3 community-technical colleges and four-year institutions of higher
4 education that offer teacher preparation programs, to design programs
5 to allow community-technical college students who are interested in
6 pursuing teaching careers to enter teacher preparation programs at
7 four-year institutions upon completion of their community-technical
8 college programs. Under the programs, a student shall be jointly
9 accepted for admission by the community-technical college and the
10 four-year institution, provided actual admission to the four-year
11 institution shall be subject to successful completion of the community-
12 technical college program. The programs shall include a counseling
13 component.

14 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall provide, within
15 available appropriations, up to six grants of seventy-five thousand
16 dollars each to joint community-technical college and four-year
17 institution teams for use over a two-year period to establish programs
18 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Grant funds shall be used for
19 (1) program articulation agreements between the constituent units of

20 higher education and between the community-technical colleges and
21 independent four-year institutions of higher education that offer
22 teacher preparation programs, (2) student outreach, especially for
23 minority candidates, (3) preparation for the certification examination,
24 and (4) counseling. Articulation agreements entered into for purposes
25 of this section shall be similar to the articulation agreements for the
26 College of Technology.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) The Department of Higher Education, in
28 collaboration with the Board for State Academic Awards, shall
29 establish, within available appropriations, a program to prepare
30 paraprofessionals who have been successful in the classroom for
31 teaching careers. Under the program, the department shall provide
32 scholarships to paraprofessionals employed by priority school districts
33 pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes, who seek to
34 become certified teachers in shortage subject areas pursuant to section
35 10-8b of the general statutes.

36 (b) The scholarships shall not exceed (1) three thousand dollars per
37 year, and (2) the combined cost of the tuition and fees at the institution
38 of higher education the paraprofessional is attending or will attend. A
39 paraprofessional may receive up to five annual scholarships. The
40 department shall establish criteria for paraprofessionals for
41 participation in the program and procedures for the repayment of the
42 amount of the scholarships provided pursuant to this section if the
43 paraprofessional does not teach in a priority school district in a
44 shortage subject area upon completion of the program.

45 (c) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall identify
46 institutions of higher education to provide the necessary teacher
47 training for the program. Each priority school district shall select
48 paraprofessionals to participate in the program based on the criteria
49 established by the department pursuant to subsection (b) of this
50 section and in consultation with the institutions of higher education.

51 (d) For purposes of this section, "paraprofessional" means an

52 employee of a local or regional board of education who does not
53 possess a certificate issued by the State Board of Education and who
54 serves as an instructional assistant for such local or regional board of
55 education.

56 Sec. 3. (NEW) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, within
57 available appropriations, shall establish a program to provide grants to
58 assist teachers in paying off their education loans. The board of
59 governors shall limit participation in the program to teachers who are
60 employed by local and regional boards of education and who (1) teach
61 in subject or geographic shortage areas pursuant to section 10-8b of the
62 general statutes, (2) teach in priority school districts pursuant to
63 section 10-266p of the general statutes, or transitional school districts
64 pursuant to section 10-263c of the general statutes, or (3) are minorities.
65 A teacher may receive more than one grant if such teacher qualifies
66 under more than one category pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (3),
67 inclusive, of this section, provided the total amount of such grants
68 does not exceed the total amount of the teacher's loans. No grant shall
69 exceed two thousand five hundred dollars. Teachers shall apply,
70 annually, for grants at such time and on such forms as the
71 Commissioner of Higher Education prescribes. For purposes of this
72 section, "minorities" means those whose racial ancestry is defined as
73 other than white by the Bureau of Census of the United States
74 Department of Commerce.

75 Sec. 4. (NEW) The Department of Higher Education, in collaboration
76 with the Department of Education, shall establish, within available
77 appropriations, a state-wide Teacher Information and Referral Center.
78 The center shall provide: (1) Information and assistance regarding
79 teacher and administrator education programs, state requirements and
80 financial aid availability, and (2) an assessment of transcripts of
81 potential teacher and administrator candidates in terms of the state's
82 certification and endorsement standards.

83 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 5-164a of the general statutes is
84 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

85 (c) No member reemployed under this section or under section 5-
86 164 or elected to serve in the General Assembly or otherwise
87 reentering state service shall receive a retirement income during such
88 member's reemployment or other state service except (1) if such
89 member's services as an employee are rendered for not more than
90 ninety working days or, in the case of a teacher in a regional
91 vocational-technical high school, not more than one hundred eighty
92 days, in any one calendar year, provided that any member reemployed
93 for a period of more than ninety working days or, in the case of a
94 teacher in a regional vocational-technical high school, a period of more
95 than one hundred eighty days, in one calendar year shall reimburse
96 the state retirement fund for retirement income payments received
97 during such ninety working days or one hundred eighty working
98 days, as appropriate; (2) if such member's services are as a member of
99 the General Assembly or as a sessional employee of the General
100 Assembly during the regular legislative session, such member's
101 retirement income payments shall not be suspended; or (3) if such
102 member's preretirement services which counted towards retirement
103 are other than as a special deputy sheriff pursuant to chapter 78, and if
104 such member's postretirement services are as a special deputy sheriff
105 or, on and after December 1, 2000, as a judicial marshal and such
106 member was employed as a special deputy sheriff on July 1, 1999.

107 Sec. 6. Subsection (k) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is
108 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

109 (k) (1) Unless otherwise provided in regulations adopted under
110 section 10-145d, in not less than three years nor more than eight years
111 after the issuance of a provisional educator certificate pursuant to
112 subsection (g) of this section and upon the statement of the
113 superintendent in whose school district such certificate holder was
114 employed, or the superintendent of a nonpublic school approved by
115 the State Board of Education, in whose school such certificate holder
116 was employed, that the provisional educator certificate holder and
117 such superintendent have mutually determined or approved an
118 individual program pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (j) of this

119 section and upon the statement of such superintendent that such
120 certificate holder has a record of competency in the discharge of his or
121 her duties during such provisional period, the state board upon receipt
122 of a proper application shall issue such certificate holder a professional
123 educator certificate. A signed recommendation from the
124 superintendent of schools for the local or regional board of education
125 or from the superintendent of a nonpublic school approved by the
126 State Board of Education shall be evidence of competency. Such
127 recommendation shall state that the person who holds or has held a
128 provisional educator certificate has successfully completed at least
129 three school years of satisfactory teaching for one or more local or
130 regional boards of education or such nonpublic schools. Each applicant
131 for a certificate pursuant to this subsection shall provide to the
132 Department of Education, in such manner and form as prescribed by
133 the commissioner, evidence that the applicant has successfully
134 completed coursework pursuant to subsection (h) or (j) of this section,
135 as appropriate.

136 (2) Upon application, a teacher from another state who has taught in
137 such other state for a minimum of five years and is nationally board
138 certified shall be issued a professional educator certificate with the
139 appropriate endorsement, subject to the provisions of subsection (m) of
140 this section relating to denial of applications for certification.

141 Sec. 7. Section 10-155d of the general statutes is repealed and the
142 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

143 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall encourage
144 and support experimentation and research in the preparation of
145 teachers for public elementary and secondary schools. [and shall
146 continue the study and evaluation conducted pursuant to section 10-
147 324a of the 1965 supplement to the general statutes.] To help fulfill the
148 purposes of this section, the Board of Governors of Higher Education
149 shall appoint an advisory council composed of qualified professionals
150 which shall render assistance and advice to [said] the board. In
151 carrying out its activities pursuant to this section, [said] the board shall

152 consult with the State Board of Education and such other agencies as it
153 deems appropriate to assure coordination of all activities of the state
154 relating to the preparation of teachers for public elementary and
155 secondary schools.

156 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall expand, within
157 available appropriations, participation in its (1) summer alternate route
158 to certification program to five hundred students per year, and (2)
159 week-end and evening alternate route to certification program to one
160 hundred twenty-five students per year. The department shall use the
161 additional spaces in the week-end and evening program for students
162 seeking certification in a subject shortage area pursuant to section 10-
163 8b. The department, in collaboration with the Department of
164 Education, shall develop regional alternate route to certification
165 programs targeted to the subject shortage areas.

166 (c) The Departments of Higher Education and Education and the
167 regional educational service centers shall contract, within available
168 appropriations, with institutions of higher education or other
169 education entities to provide on-line test preparation classes for the
170 teacher certification examination.

171 Sec. 8. (NEW) The Department of Higher Education, in consultation
172 with the Department of Education, shall establish, within available
173 appropriations, a pilot alternate route to certification program for
174 school administrators. The program shall include mentored
175 apprenticeships.

176 Sec. 9. The Department of Education shall develop a plan for a
177 beginning administrator support and assessment program to train
178 school administrators. The Commissioner of Education shall report, in
179 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on such plan to
180 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
181 cognizance of matters relating to education by February 1, 2002. The
182 report shall include information on the funding necessary to
183 implement the plan.

184 Sec. 10. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-183e of the general
185 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

186 (b) Any member may purchase, as provided in subsection (c) of this
187 section, additional credited service, but [not to exceed an aggregate of
188 one year in the case of service described in subdivision (2) of this
189 subsection for each two years of active full-time service as a
190 Connecticut teacher; and] not to exceed an aggregate of one year in the
191 case of absence described in subdivision (8) of this subsection for each
192 five years of active full-time service as a Connecticut teacher, provided
193 if any such absence exceeds thirty consecutive school months, such
194 additional credited service shall be limited to thirty school months;
195 and not to exceed an aggregate of ten years for all service described in
196 this subsection, except for service described in subdivision (2) of this
197 subsection. In no event [, however,] may any service described in this
198 subsection be purchased if the member is receiving or is, or will
199 become, entitled to receive a retirement benefit based upon such
200 service from any governmental system other than the teachers'
201 retirement system or the federal Social Security System. Additional
202 credited service includes:

203 (1) Service as a teacher in a school for military dependents
204 established by the United States Department of Defense;

205 (2) Service as a teacher in another state of the United States, its
206 territories or possessions;

207 (3) Service in the armed forces of the United States in time of war, as
208 defined in section 27-103, or service in said armed forces during the
209 period beginning October 27, 1953, and ending January 31, 1955;

210 (4) Service in a permanent full-time position for the state;

211 (5) Service as a teacher at The University of Connecticut prior to July
212 1, 1965;

213 (6) Service as a teacher at the Wheeler School and Library, North

214 Stonington, prior to September 1, 1949;

215 (7) Service as a teacher at the Gilbert Home, Winsted, prior to
216 September 1, 1948;

217 (8) Any formal leave of absence as provided in regulations adopted
218 by the board, if the member subsequently returns to service for at least
219 one school year;

220 (9) Service as a teacher at the American School at Hartford for the
221 Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind or the Newington
222 Children's Hospital;

223 (10) Forty or more days of service as a substitute teacher, or the
224 equivalent service rendered at less than half-time, in a single public
225 school system within the state of Connecticut in any school year,
226 provided twenty days of such service shall equal one month of
227 credited service under subsection (a) of this section;

228 (11) Service in the armed forces of the United States, other than
229 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, not to exceed
230 thirty months;

231 (12) Service as a full-time, salaried, elected official of the state or any
232 political subdivision of the state during the 1978 calendar year or
233 thereafter, if such member subsequently returns to service for at least
234 one school year;

235 (13) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a member of the
236 federal Teacher Corps, not to exceed two years; and

237 (14) Service in the United States Peace Corps.

238 (c) Additional credited service must be purchased (1) at the time of
239 retirement, or (2) at the time a surviving spouse elects benefits under
240 the provisions of subsection (d) of section 10-183h, or (3) at the time
241 benefits commence under an optional payment form pursuant to
242 section 10-183j. Any purchase of service shall be accomplished by the

243 member paying to the board an amount equal to one-half of the
244 actuarial present value or, in the case of the purchase of service
245 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section in excess of
246 ten years, the full actuarial present value, determined according to
247 actuarial tables adopted by the board, of the difference between the
248 retirement benefit which the member is entitled to receive based upon
249 his or her service apart from such purchased service and the benefit
250 which he or she is entitled to receive including such service. Payments
251 for additional credited service may be made in a lump sum by transfer
252 of funds from the member's accumulated one per cent contributions
253 withheld prior to July 1, 1989, with credited interest and accumulated
254 voluntary contributions with credited interest plus such other amounts
255 as may be required to complete the purchase.

256 Sec. 11. (NEW) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 10-183g of
257 the general statutes, on and after July 1, 2001, retirement benefits shall
258 not be prorated and persons age sixty and older who have ten years or
259 more of service as a teacher in Connecticut shall receive normal
260 retirement benefits computed in accordance with subsection (a) of
261 section 10-183g of the general statutes.

262 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10-183v of the general statutes is
263 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

264 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a former
265 teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may not be
266 employed in a teaching position receiving compensation paid out of
267 public money appropriated for school purposes except that such
268 former teacher may be employed temporarily in such a position and
269 receive no more than forty-five per cent of the [entry-level salary for
270 the assigned subject area for such compensation] average annual
271 salary such former teacher earned. The Commissioner of Education
272 may waive such salary limitation, at the request of the local or regional
273 board of education, for former teachers working in shortage areas
274 pursuant to section 10-8b or an emergency situation as determined by
275 the commissioner. The commissioner shall notify the board of any such

276 waiver. Temporary employment means employment [for less than a
277 school year] (1) under a renewable contract lasting no more than one
278 year, and (2) for which the former teacher does not accrue credited
279 service under the teacher retirement system. Notice of such
280 employment shall be sent monthly to the board by the employing
281 officials and by the retired teacher at the end of each assignment.

282 Sec. 13. Subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
283 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

284 (d) The [state] Department of Education may fund, within available
285 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational
286 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut
287 public school teachers and certified teachers at private special
288 education facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education and at
289 other facilities designated by the commissioner, who participate in the
290 supervision, training and evaluation of student teachers; (2) institutes
291 to provide continuing education for Connecticut public school
292 educators, assessors and cooperating teachers and teacher mentors,
293 including institutes to provide continuing education for Connecticut
294 public school educators offered in cooperation with the Connecticut
295 Humanities Council; and (3) a beginning teacher support and
296 assessment program to train Connecticut public school teachers and
297 other qualified persons approved by the Commissioner of Education
298 and certified teachers at such private special education and other
299 designated facilities who serve as mentors or assessors for beginning
300 teachers and who supervise, train and assist or assess beginning
301 teachers in their initial years in teaching and to pay stipends to
302 mentors and assessors. [Funds available under this subsection shall be
303 paid directly to school districts] The department shall pay mentors
304 stipends of five hundred dollars per school year and shall use any
305 remaining funds to pay school districts directly for the provision of
306 substitute teachers when cooperating teachers, teacher mentors,
307 beginning teachers and assessors are released from regular classroom
308 responsibilities and for the provision of professional development
309 activities for cooperating and student teachers, teacher mentors,

310 assessors and beginning teachers. The cooperating teacher and
311 beginning teacher support and assessment programs shall operate in
312 accordance with regulations which shall be adopted by the State Board
313 of Education pursuant to chapter 54. Student teachers shall be placed
314 with trained cooperating teachers. Beginning teachers shall participate
315 in a beginning teacher support and assessment program as made
316 available by the board. School districts shall be responsible for
317 providing support to beginning teachers which shall include, but not
318 be limited to, the placement of beginning teachers with trained teacher
319 mentors who may be full or part-time teachers in the same or a
320 different building than the beginning teacher and provision of trained
321 assessors to conduct assessments of beginning teachers. Cooperating
322 teachers, teacher mentors and assessors may serve concurrently in
323 more than one capacity and may be assigned more than one student
324 teacher or beginning teacher in each such capacity. The assessment of
325 each beginning teacher shall be based upon, but not limited to, data
326 obtained from observations conducted by assessors using an
327 assessment instrument. [Notwithstanding any regulation to the
328 contrary, the State Board of Education may require less than six
329 observations as part of such assessment for the fiscal year ending June
330 30, 1992, and may establish different assessment standards for use
331 during such fiscal year.] Notwithstanding any regulation to the
332 contrary, a beginning teacher need not be assessed by a certified
333 teacher who holds a certification endorsement in the same general
334 subject area as such beginning teacher. Cooperating teachers and
335 teacher mentors who are Connecticut public school teachers and
336 assessors who are employed by school districts shall be selected by
337 local and regional boards of education. Cooperating teachers and
338 teacher mentors and assessors at such private special education and
339 other designated facilities shall be selected by the authority responsible
340 for the operation of such facilities. If a board of education is unable to
341 identify a sufficient number of individuals to serve in such positions,
342 the commissioner may select qualified persons who are not employed
343 by the board of education to serve in such positions. Such regulations
344 shall require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience

345 and recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-
346 153a to 10-153n, inclusive, shall not be applicable to the selection,
347 placement and compensation of persons participating in the
348 cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and assessment
349 programs pursuant to the provisions of this section and to the hours
350 and duties of such persons. The State Board of Education shall protect
351 and save harmless, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-235,
352 any cooperating teacher, teacher mentor or assessor while serving in
353 such capacity.

354 Sec. 14. (NEW) The Department of Education, in cooperation with
355 the Department of Higher Education, shall establish an accelerated
356 cross endorsement process for each subject shortage area pursuant to
357 section 10-8b of the general statutes, to allow certified teachers to add a
358 new endorsement to their certificates.

359 Sec. 15. Subsection (b) of section 10a-168a of the general statutes is
360 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

361 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
362 grants to minority students [entering] (1) in teacher education
363 programs [in] for their junior or senior year, or both such years, at any
364 four-year institution of higher education, (2) completing the
365 requirements of such a teacher education program as a graduate
366 student, provided such student received a grant pursuant to this
367 section for one year at the undergraduate level, or (3) enrolled in the
368 alternate route to certification program administered through the
369 Department of Higher Education. No student shall receive a grant
370 under the program for more than two years. Maximum grants shall
371 not exceed five thousand dollars per year. [for two years.] The
372 department shall ensure that at least ten per cent of the grant recipients
373 are minority students who transfer from a Connecticut regional
374 community-technical college.

375 Sec. 16. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

ED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP